



Idaho



State & Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2007 Final	FY 2008 Estimate
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	207,000	150,600
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management - National Fire Plan	992,000	112,000
Economic Action	45,000	0
Forest Land Enhancement	0	0
Forest Legacy	2,935,000	4,568,000
Forest Stewardship	309,500	247,800
State Fire Assistance	568,400	463,300
State Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	1,607,646	276,600
Urban and Community Forestry	270,950	170,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance	71,400	71,400
Volunteer Fire Assistance - National Fire Plan	116,100	116,100
Total	7,122,996	6,175,800

This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

Cooperative programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between the State of Idaho, the USDA Forest Service, and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Idaho's forest lands and rural economies. We emphasize timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies, and conservation practices. Our goal is to maintain and improve the health of Idaho's urban and rural forests and related economies.

- Increase cost effectiveness through the use of partnerships in delivery
- Increase values through sustained productivity of forests
- Integrate program efforts to maximize impact and address state and national issues

Key Issues:

- Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) management
- Forest health concerns: increased age and density; decreased federal lands diversity
- Rapid urbanization and subdivision development
- Threats to Idaho's forests from invasive species
- Increasing dependence on timber supply from private lands
- Protection and rehabilitation of water quality and riparian areas
- Biomass utilization
- Ecosystem restoration
- Threats to Idaho's communities and forests from wildfire
- Climate change and its affect on Idaho rural and community forests

Forest Facts and Accomplishments:

Selected Facts		FY2007 Accomplishments	
Population	1,293,953	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance (Each)	2,539
Acres of Forest Land	21,821,000	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	9,304
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	3,219,477	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	8,461
Number of NIPF Landowners	58,842	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted (Each)	68
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	966,689	State Fire Communities Assisted (Each)	69
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	3,303,565	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	23,890
Number of Rural Fire Departments	250	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions (Acres)	1,650
Number of Cities And Towns	205	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	78
Forest Based Employment	14,700	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance (Each)	769,646
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	4	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance (Hours)	31,665
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	0		

Program Highlights:

Forest Health Protection

Forest Health is providing assistance to landowners whose lands have been ravaged by mountain pine beetle in east-central Idaho. Approximately 1,618 acres were treated by contractors via salvage harvest, spraying, pheromones, thinning and planting on private lands in east-central Idaho affected by this beetle. Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) thinned 702 acres of lodgepole pine forest in south-eastern Idaho and pruned 209 acres of white pine forest in the Panhandle. Another 490 acres of lodgepole forest will be thinned in south-eastern Idaho in FY 2008. Region 4 of the US Forest Service allocated an additional \$553,000 to the Idaho Department of Agriculture for invasive weed treatment on 22,207 acres. Six detection/evaluation surveys were conducted statewide, covering 4.5 million acres of state and private lands. Fifty identification and control training sessions and 85 technical service visits were delivered to a total of 4,190 state and private land managers and the general

public. Another 731 technical assistance phone calls/e-mails were handled by IDL's forest health staff.

Cooperative Fire Protection

State Fire Assistance (SFA) helps protect lives, property, and natural resources through the cooperative efforts of local, state, and federal entities. This program funding helps hire, train, and equip firefighters available for national deployment and supports four interagency dispatch centers and an interagency fire cache. Keep Idaho Green (www.keepidahogreen.org) assists fire prevention cooperatives with media activities and provides publications on wildland fire prevention. The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program provides federal financial assistance to organize, train, and equip fire departments in rural areas and rural communities. In 2007, Idaho Department of Lands received 86 VFA grant applications with a total request of \$692,319; of these, 70 rural volunteer fire departments received VFA awards totaling \$187,500. Idaho continues to emphasize cooperative implementation of the National Fire Plan under the guidance of the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (ISFPWG – www.idahofireplan.org). All 44 counties have completed their County Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and periodically submit updates that include revised WUI maps and lists of priorities and goals. County Interagency Working Groups maintain efforts to design and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects to mitigate the threat of wildfire to Idaho's communities and forests.

Economic Action

The Fuels for Schools (FFS) and Beyond program in Idaho is a partnership between the State Forester, the Regional Foresters in Regions 1 and 4 of the US Forest Service, and the Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D). The purpose is to expand the use of small-diameter trees and slash removed in hazardous fuel reduction projects to heat local public buildings and demonstrate the practicality, economic sense, and positive environmental impact of heating using woody biomass fuels. The Council, ID demonstration project has been in operation for about 2½ years. Council Schools' projected fuel cost savings for the 2006-07 winter is \$35,000. A second demonstration project in Kellogg, Idaho was completed in August 2007. This system heats the Junior High School and the School District Administrative offices. Numerous preliminary engineering evaluations have been done through the FFS program on other public buildings in Idaho; many of these communities are actively seeking construction funds. IDL is also focusing on the "beyond" in the program title, utilizing a Wood to Energy Jump Start grant to target larger facilities that require heat energy 24 hours a day, seven days a week year round to realize even greater benefit from woody biomass.

Forest Legacy

On September 6, 2007, Idaho purchased its fifth Forest Legacy conservation easement on 1,643 acres in the Kootenai River watershed near Bonners Ferry, securing development and subdivision rights, and special management prescriptions or exclusions.

Urban and Community Forestry

More than 85% of Idaho's urban population lives in cities either developing or managing their community forests. Federal and State funding generated more than \$425,000 in local matching support, supplemented by about \$60,000 in state funds. Partnerships with the Department of Transportation, Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Councils, and the three investor-owned utilities in Idaho have helped extend the program's reach throughout the state. Idaho currently has 70 Tree Cities USA, including three new ones, and eight of these qualified for a Growth Award in 2006. STRATUM assessments are being completed in many cities to quantify the air quality, stormwater mitigation, energy conservation, and property enhancement values of public trees to these communities. The

program is increasingly focused on utilizing trees as functional tools to positively address key community issues, maximizing their benefits and economic value. For example, the City of Boise found that their 23,000 street trees provided more than \$1 million in benefits—a 30% return on the costs to plant and manage them. These assessments help provide the information necessary to understand the impact on canopy cover over communities.

Conservation Education

More than two-dozen educational programs were held across the state for communities and citizens with topics ranging from tree planting and pruning, community tree inventories, ordinance development and more. Additional presentations were made at schools, county fairs, and community celebrations educating Idaho's citizens on the value and benefits of trees in our communities and providing information regarding better care and management of community forests.

Forest Stewardship

The Idaho Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) facilitated several valuable educational projects in 2007, as well as completed work on Idaho's Spatial Analysis Project. The Idaho FSP hosted the biennial Forest Taxation and Estate Planning Conference, educating 33 participants from Idaho and Washington, and Idaho FSP also partnered with University of Idaho Extension professionals to sponsor 17 workshops, covering 10 forestry topics, which were attended by 554 participants. In addition, Idaho collaborated with several agencies and entities to provide the two-day Family Forest Landowner and Managers Conference, which reached 236 attendees. Idaho's Private Forestry Specialists, on behalf of FSP, provided five presentations to 250 Idaho loggers as part of the Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP) program. The Idaho Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) was completed in October, 2007, and approved by the Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee in November. SAP spatially displays stewardship accomplishments, prioritizes important forest areas, and examines the potential for strategic stewardship implementation on private lands. Idaho is continuing its strong association with NRCS in providing Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost-shared activities to forestland owners across the state; in 2007, contracts for cost-shared activities, including thinning, pruning and planting, were submitted to improve 3,563 acres of private forestland. Idaho's Private Forestry Specialists are contractually serving as Technical Service Providers for NRCS, writing conservation plans, and helping to implement and inspect EQIP practices on private forestlands. Idaho is also participating in meetings with the Idaho Tree Farm Council to initiate procedures to ensure ATFS Certification for private forested lands with valid Landowner Forest Stewardship Plans.

Community Fire Protection and Hazardous Fuels Treatments

Idaho uses National Fire Plan dollars to reduce risk via fuels reduction treatments in the wildland urban interface. Interagency Working Groups have been established in each county to prioritize areas where fuel reduction is needed to protect communities. In 2007, Idaho Department of Lands awarded \$1,369,008 of National Fire Plan funding to Hazardous Fuels Treatment (HFT). To date, 16,114 acres have been treated at an average cost of \$953 per acre. Funding has been provided to the Keep Idaho Green program to provide education and information to communities to teach homeowners about hazard mitigation. Other projects and programs funded with National Fire Plan dollars include Idaho's National Fire Plan Coordinator position, Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group Website development and maintenance, and a video demonstrating the successful implementation of Firewise principles resulting in increased community protection during the Poe Cabin Fire.



Idaho Department of Lands
George B. Bacon
300 North 6th Street, Suite 103
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0050
Ph: 208-334-0242
Fax: 208-334-2339
Email: gbacon@idl.idaho.gov

Northern Region
Paul Ries
USDA Forest Service
200 East Broadway
Missoula, MT 59807
Ph: 801-625-5253
Fax: 801-625-5716
Email: pries@fs.fed.us

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Last Updated: February 1, 2008